



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Town Hall – 307 E. Kennedy Blvd.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** These meeting minutes are presented in an abbreviated format intended as a public record discussion of stated meeting according to the Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine law. Meetings are opened to the public, noticed within reasonable advance notice, and transcribed into minutes for public record. *\*\*Audio Recording are available through the Town's website on the Council Agenda Page.*

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### CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and a quorum was established by Mrs. King.

**PRESENT:** (5), Mayor Angie Gardner, Vice Mayor Theo Washington, Councilman Rodney Daniels, Councilwoman Wanda Randolph, Councilman Tarus Mack

**STAFF:** (6) Demetrius Pressley, **Chief Administrator Officer**, Veronica King, **Town Clerk**, Holli New, **Town Attorney**, Katrina Gibson, **Finance Director**, Chief Stanley Murray, **EPD**, Tara Salmieri, **Planner**

### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation through a moment of silence led by Mayor Gardner followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

**Mayor Gardner Motions** to **APPROVE** the meeting agenda; **Moved by** Vice Mayor Washington; **Second by** Councilman Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – (4)

Joyce Irby – sought out Mr. Singh to get some advice about citizen rights and making a difference and was informed that Florida legislature could dissolve us without reason although they look for cause, unless you change the people, you will make no difference, when a town cannot care for its citizens it becomes a liability, the town can not pay the police.

Angela Johnson – We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but for each other. If you are there for others, then in a time of need someone will be there for you, thank you for your thoughts and prayers, going through some health issues (ask for continued prayers), on behalf of the Jones, Gordon, McWhite, Evans, Carson, Blue family, thank you for your thoughts and prayers on behalf of Courtney, Latanya, and Kalen during the loss of Callie who was laid to rest on last Saturday; attention is needed for the activity and parking issues in Cataline Park (may need higher police presence), cars are speeding making it unsafe for children; residents are taking advantage of the energy saving programs that Duke is doing (thank you for that relationship); trash was not picked up today; understand that grant reporting and grant compliance is a time consuming task, for thirteen grants to be administered by one part-time staff person is quite an undertaking (consider the need for another grant staff member), there are the responsibilities of meeting deliverables and outcome measures in order to receive the funds.

Charles Bargaineer – Inquired and request for pictures of the Town Council be displayed larger in the town hall lobby.

Ruthi Critton – In the late evening of Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, family experienced an emergency that required the assistance of first responders. Representatives of the Eatonville Police Department arrived expeditiously before the paramedics, they were professional, considerate, courteous, empathetic, they were sensitive and



reassuring catering to both our physical and emotional emergencies, after the paramedics arrived, they remained and provided assistance over and beyond in carrying daughter to the ambulance while entertaining my two year old who is extremely protective and curious. They provided words of comfort and encouragement to my husband and myself, they assisted my husband (had knee surgery) with getting our son into our vehicle to follow behind the ambulance and they insisted on letting us know that they cared about the outcome of our situation and asked us to keep them informed with new developments, acknowledged the quality and the character of the officers who serve Eatonville under Chief Murray's leadership, tenure and relationships can affect the level of service that constituents receive, as a native of this community, there is extreme satisfaction in the way Eatonville Police Department responded with compassion and care during to my family's emergency and most vulnerable moments, this experience will forever be remembered, hope that the police department continues to serve in this capacity and encourages their counterparts to do the same, council requested for the names of the officers for recognition: Officer Hernandez, Officer Colangelo, and Officer Nickoli.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-1- Amending The Land Development Code By Consolidating Zoning And Use Regulations Into A Consolidated Use Table; Repealing Certain Provisions Relating To Permitted Uses, Accessory Uses, Special Exception Uses, And Prohibited Uses In Chapter 64, Article III. – Zoning District Regulations; Creating Chapter 65 – Use Regulations. (Preamble Read) Tara Salmieri serving for the planning department had no additional information since the first reading, spoke with Councilwoman Randolph defining what a mobile home was versus a regular home, available for additional questions **Citizen Comments:** Ruthi Critton (Eaton Street) - ask to consider the limitation on additional dwelling to potentially include allowance for an additional story, Mayor asked for clarification, going from one story to a two story would not necessarily make the dwelling larger than the percentage approved, but want to be able to go to a two story leaving the size requirement the same (dimensions and percentages). **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-1- Amending The Land Development Code By Consolidating Zoning And Use Regulations Into A Consolidated Use Table; Repealing Certain Provisions Relating To Permitted Uses, Accessory Uses, Special Exception Uses, And Prohibited Uses In Chapter 64, Article III. – Zoning District Regulations; Creating Chapter 65 – Use Regulations. **Council Comments:** None. **Mayor Gardner calls for question; Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by Mayor Gardner; AYE: ALL; MOTION PASSES.**

**APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE the Consent Agenda;** approving Council Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2025; **Moved by Vice Mayor Washington; Second by Councilman Mack; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

## **COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

Approval of the TOECRA Board of Directors Authorizing the Executive Director to Purchase Property Located at 119 S. West St.; There is no resolution and no preamble to read, a resolution will be presented to the CRA Board, per the charter, the council have to give the approval for the CRA to proceed forward. Mr. Johnson (CRA Executive Director) stated that the CRA had been approached about purchasing one 119 South West Street, all documentation is contained in the council packet to include title work, property parcel record, should have the appraisal and copy of the Letter of Intent (LOI) that was presented to the owner. After stating an initial motion for approval, clarification on the motion was needed, all actions were rescinded. **Mayor Gardner Motions to APPROVE** the TOECRA Board of Directors to Authorize the Executive Director to Purchase Property Located at 119 S. West St. for \$339,000; **Moved by Councilman Mack; Second by Vice Mayor Washington; AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.** **Discussions:** This item has been vetted by Attorney Jackson; Mayor Gardner stated that this item (land purchase) was added to the workshop agenda as a discussion, due to time constraints, the item discussion and decision was to be done at the 7:30 p.m. meeting, the discussion of the land purchase was not intentionally left off the workshop agenda (it was an oversight),



Mr. Johnson confirmed that the title is the final official title, will get the warranty and deed at closing. The reason this item is before council tonight is to get authorization to move forward with the transaction, once it goes to closing, all updated documents to clear the title will be provided to include the property deed, have to get authorization from the council first, then the CRA board will have to finish the execution of the transaction.

## REPORTS:

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Demetrius Pressley – Parking Violations:** referred to the handout that speaks to the traffic enforcement for the Catalina Park area, as of today, there are parking violations (total of 27 vehicles were found in violation by parking in the right way) whether it was an expired tag, deflated tire, illegal commercial vehicles, or abandoned vehicles, the process of ticketing has begun, (Chief Jenkins) efforts are being done to address the violations by going door-to-door and working with code enforcement to accommodate correctly; also been in touch with the county dog catcher, noticing people who tend to walk their dogs without leashes or their dog are outside without supervision, have given verbal warnings and having the dog catcher to come around can be an incentive to how the people monitor and manage animals; the department is meeting with residents and giving information, from there will full force, some people have already gotten citations and warning to others depending on the situation, working with code enforcement on the back end for the areas that that belongs to the his jurisdiction, when you start getting into backyards, code enforcement has get involved first and police can work with code enforcement, police takes over from a state statue if there is abuse and neglect. Mr. Baruti has started the process of addressing the lease law; Golf Carts: information has been provided that will speak to the registration process, the decals, and the whole process, an ordinance was already approved by council, the documentation has been vetted by are legal and the process is ready to start, nothing has been posted publicly, want to ensure council are in agreement with the documentation; the goal is to kick off the process in middle March (March 15), signage is needed, police front desk staff will handle the registration process, crosswalks need to be pressure washed and painted, no one should be driving golf carts at the moment and can be ticketed, information need to be giving out to the people and will be distributed through the water bill, recommend reaching out to those who have golf carts, arrange a meeting, during stakeholders meeting, and place on Facebook and the town's website, information will also be provided through a QR Code; Additional Updates: had two successful masterplan meetings, the next one is on March 12<sup>th</sup> located at the Lias Hall at 5:30 (Flyer has been provided); on March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a be a CRA and town housing resource fair, there may be housing issues resulting from the hurricane, along with Mr. Johnson we met the CDBG department for the county and there is funding to be released in March that will assist homeowners with restoration or repair options from hurricane damage, this is in conjunction with the CDBGDR disaster recovery mitigating infrastructure improvements from the government side, also starts in March; acknowledged public works (a formal appreciation is forthcoming) Mr. Sid and four of his staff members saved the town money by handling a project at Town Hall that required pipe replacement due to several backups in the building resulting from shabby pipe work done previously (an outside company charges was between \$15,000 to \$16,000), the initiative was taken Dominique Taylor (newly returning employee) along with Mr. Pitts, Mr. Sid and other staff members, with about three days to complete along with the parts the project costs was about two thousand and eighty four dollars (\$2,084), a significant savings done by the efforts of in house employees, training and initiatives are taking place to save money; new water rates have been established, a sample run is being done to ensure everything goes well for the next bill; have met the 90 day period for the impact fee, currently working with Edmunds and the planning department along with Tara (certified planner) to create a fee schedule, creating metrics done electronically to receive submittals on new buildings where the impact fees will be applied, compliments to this council; Vice Mayor Washington have concerns about the drafted documents for golf cart registration, Chief will get with Vice Mayor Washington for any adjustments needed.

**ATTORNEY: Holli New – No Report**



## **TOWN COUNCIL REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS -**

**Councilman Tarus Mack** – Thank you everybody for just coming out and being engaged in town business, if at any chance someone feel like you are not being heard you can email me, call me, come talk to me personally after the meeting, want to be heard and ensure that you are being heard on situations or concerns that you may have; thanks to Axis Realty for the presentation and bringing resources and wanting to help the community, look forward to working with you; had an amazing time celebrating the anniversary for Chief Murray, was invited to his church to hear a word from Bishop Kimble, Happy anniversary Chief on all the things that you are doing, felt nothing but love when I walked in that building; thanks Mr. Pressley, staff, and the collaboration with Mr. Johnson on the CRA side in working together doing all the things to push this town forward and doing what is right for the citizens of this community, congratulations to Edgewater High School for making it to the regional finals, they are excellent students in the classroom and do a great job on the basketball court, hats off to Coach Mason and staff, many of the coaches are from Eatonville and are pouring back into the community, many of the children are from Eatonville as well, much success on Thursday night in playing Evans High School, Happy Black History Month, must continue to work together no matter what creed or race paving the way doing things sustainable for this community and for the kids, you do not have to move out of Eatonville to better yourself, going to college and coming back to pour back into the community is something that you want to do, thank God for the position to help people, being the first elected official as chairman for the CMB board in orange county, my motto is changing lives and helping, if I am not doing that, I am not doing my job; the dog leash (ordinance) is very important, do not want any fatalities to happen to anybody; Chief, you are doing a great job with the police department, in making a call to you, you answer the call on the first ring and had an officer come out immediately, I was at a standstill being held hostage by a pit bull that was not on a leash, someone left their dog when they moved out of the community, there are kids running around the neighborhood, we have to fix that issue immediately; had an opportunity to go to Callie Jones' funeral, it was a wonderful homecoming, condolences and praying for strength and comfort to the parents; strongly recommend getting another certified code enforcement officer, need the man force to be able to correct these issues that we are having, one man being on code enforcement is not going to do it; are there any lawsuits or litigations towards the town? (no pending litigation currently); condolences to Senator Thompson and her family, we have seen the scope of what she has done throughout the state of Florida, Eatonville, and in Orlando, she has always been a fighter.

**Councilman Rodney Daniels** – Suggesting to change prayer to words of affirmation, Pastor Critton can give words of affirmation instead of a prayer; had the opportunity to be on the board to appoint Mr. Singh, and was not a fan at first, there was a paradigm shift when speaking with Mr. Singh for about 30 minutes, his love for this town was an asset; thank you Ms. Joyce, you are heard and we are still in this fight; hoping that Mrs. Johnson (grant coordinator) was not offended, we have had grants initiated by department heads and gotten them done, I understand everything is being done with the current grants ensuring they get established, let her know I was not coming at her, just want inquiring as to what new grants she brings to the table, is there a grant firm that have a team that can do grants for us, since there is much work to be done, maybe she (Mrs. Johnson) needs some help; with the acquisition of this land, maybe Axis Realty can come in and maybe show us what they can do, they did an awesome presentation, . Let us get this company trying to see, you know, what they can have with somebody else; had a resident to call who had missed the Duke Energy meeting, what do they need to? Duke Energy sent out a mailer to every resident home, they are still going around and there is an opportunity, the number to Duke Energy is 855-227-2918; condolences to Senator Thompson, she was an awesome woman, and it was a pleasure talking with her.

**Councilwoman Wanda Randolph** – Inquired to Mrs. King as to what was the laughter for during the previous comments (in response, the laughter was the result of giving the authority to move forward without the consensus of the entire council, it was funny and cute and not a laugh directly towards anyone, an apologize for not practicing restraint was extended), inquired about the clicking noise with the microphones (in response, in digitizing the room it was recommended to use pods instead of microphones, council wanted individual



microphones, with the quality of the microphones and them being so close together it is causing feedback, because the setup digitally synchronized some adjustments will need to be revisited and adjusted, the microphones should not this close together because they are multi-directional microphones that pick up audio within three feet), those on the outside gives feedback to how terrible the sound is and has a reflection on the council, the town clerk will inquire about it, the clerk stated that she is getting positive feedback, it may not be an equipment error on the outside but a Wi-Fi (network) issue; the Duke Energy program is a good concept and a positive thing in the neighborhood; agree with Pastor Bargaineer about the pictures, would like to move forward and get better pictures in the lobby; reiterated the water bill increase for the next upcoming cycle; still waiting on some public records requests (Mr. Pressley will follow up); inquired about the dog leash ordinance (Mr. Pressley will follow up with legal and Mr. Baruti on this Matter), will respond back to council; inquired about the potholes and the crosswalks, will they be addressed by the CRA or the town (it would be under the town); condolences to Senator Thompson's family and continued prayers for a speedy recovery for Sister Johnson, she is always advocating for Eatonville and actively participating at the meetings, she is loyal and humble to her town, thank you for all that you do.

**Vice Mayor Theo Washington** – Condolences Senator Thompson and all the families who are grieving; to Ms. Lynn, I miss walking those days back in the past, we used to walk a lot, thank you and hope you get well soon, I do miss you in the chambers, welcome back.

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Angie Gardner** – Kudos to everything everyone has said; took note of the crosswalks, Mr. Pressley will follow up; Dr. Johnson is doing a good job; remember previously asking for council to approve a grant writing team, it was brought two or three times because grant opportunities were coming; we needed someone like Dr. Johnson to come along and make certain that we could keep the grants going; it is good to see you again Ms. Johnson (Angela); thank you for the positive comments; this administration and staff are doing a great job and I appreciate it because you do not always hear it, thanks for all that you do; if a dog is seen running loose, can the county be contacted (yes), Chief working directly with lead director of animal control, in the meantime contact the county as an option, if it is something where a residence is involved and 911 is needed, the police can respond to that.

**ADJOURNMENT** Mayor Gardner Motions for Adjournment of Meeting; **Moved** by Councilman Mack;  
**Second** by Vice Mayor Washington; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES. Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Veronica L. King, Town Clerk

APPROVED

  
Angie Gardner, Mayor